





MonkeyBrain Comics is a digital-first comic book publisher. We are currently seeking talented writers and artists to create original comic book series. If you are interested in submitting your work, please visit our website at [monkeybraincomics.com](http://monkeybraincomics.com). We are looking for stories that are fun, creative, and have a strong visual appeal. Our readers are primarily young adults, so we are looking for stories that are accessible and engaging. We are also looking for stories that have a strong sense of humor. If you are interested in submitting your work, please visit our website at [monkeybraincomics.com](http://monkeybraincomics.com). We are looking for stories that are fun, creative, and have a strong visual appeal. Our readers are primarily young adults, so we are looking for stories that are accessible and engaging. We are also looking for stories that have a strong sense of humor.

## SAY HER NAME

by Kyle Starks

## WHEN THE CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST

by Vito Delsante and JoJo Seames

## DARK SPACES

by Adam Watson

## BAD MOON RISING

by Manning Krull

## BOO! AT THE MOVIES

by Andrew Ihla and JoJo Seames

## THE NEW NORMAL

by Ken Lowery and Paul Milligan



## COLDER THAN A WITCH'S TREAT

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## THE WRECK

by Kelly Tindall

## THE KARKADOOM

by Ken Lowery and Benjamin Hall

## NIGHT OF THE LIVING SQUARES

by Joe Hunter

## ROSIE GOATHEAD

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## THE EGGS FILES

by Delilah Dawson and Tyler Hendrix



## THE UNSETTING SUN

by Ryan Smith, Sean Poppe and Deanna Poppe

## IMAGO

by Pete Toms

## TRICKED

by Scott Faulkner

## THE NATURALIST'S GUIDE

by Kim Kirsch

Cover by Robert Wilson IV

Framing sequence by Jon Morris

"BOO! Halloween Stories" created by  
Manning Krull and Jon Morris



OH! WELL, HELLO  
THERE, KIDS! I DIDN'T HEAR  
YOU COME IN! I'M ...

**MR. PUZZLES**

AND I'M AFRAID THAT YOU'VE  
CAUGHT ME IN THE MIDDLE  
OF DESIGNING MY LATEST  
**DEATH TRAP!**

THIS ONE'S  
GONNA BE A  
REAL DOOZY!

STICK AROUND  
FOR A WHILE AND  
SEE HOW IT COMES  
OUT, WHY  
DON'TCHA?

IN THE MEANTIME,  
WHY DON'T YOU HELP  
YOURSELF TO A COLLECTION  
OF HAIR-RAISING HALLOWEEN  
TALES TO GET YOURSELF GOOD  
AND READY FOR THE CARNAGE?  
STARTING RIGHT ON  
THE NEXT PAGE...

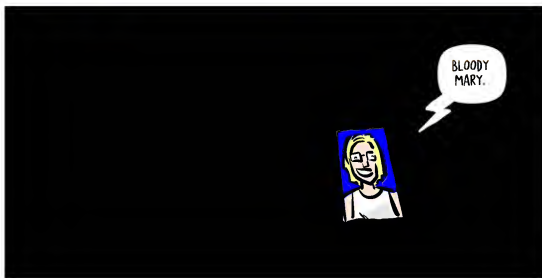






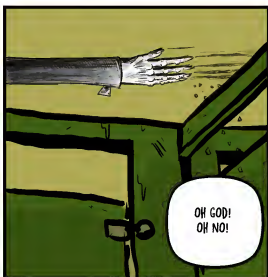




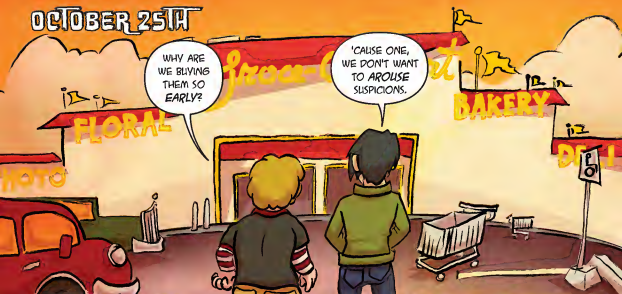








OCTOBER 25TH



WHY ARE WE BUYING THEM SO EARLY?

'CAUSE ONE, WE DON'T WANT TO AROUSE SUSPICIONS.

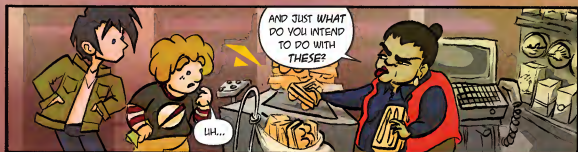


AND TWO?

YOU LEAVE 'EM OUTSIDE FOR A FEW DAYS...



SO THEY GET GOOD AND STINKY.



AND JUST WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH THESE?

UH...



HIS MOM ENTERED THE SAINT BERNADETTE'S BAKE OFF.

YEAH!

OCTOBER 31ST

GET 'EM!

STOP, YOU GUYS! THAT'S NOT FAIR!

WHY CAN'T YOU TOILET PAPER THE HOUSE LIKE ANY OTHER NORMAL TEEN ON TRACK FOR A CAREER IN PRISON MAINTENANCE?

BECAUSE EGGS ARE FUNNIER!

AND SMELL LIKE---!

HEY! DON'T YOU THROW THAT BOCKING EGG!

WHO SAID THAT?

I'M WARNING YOU, YOU SONS OF BOCK. THROW ANOTHER EGG AND IT'S YOUR BOCK!

HEH, LOOK! IT'S A BROWN MAN IN A...SAN DIEGO CHICKEN COSTUME?

YEAH, YOU MUST BE LIKE TO YEARS OLD!

KICK ROCKS, FAMILY GUY.

THAT'S BOCKING IT!





KRRKRLUNK

"AND THAT, MY FRIENDS,  
IS WHY WE ONLY SELL THE  
FINEST NON-STEROID, NON-  
GENETICALLY MODIFIED  
CHICKENS AND EGGS."





FOR YOUR  
SAFETY.

AND THE  
SAFETY OF YOUR  
CHILDREN.

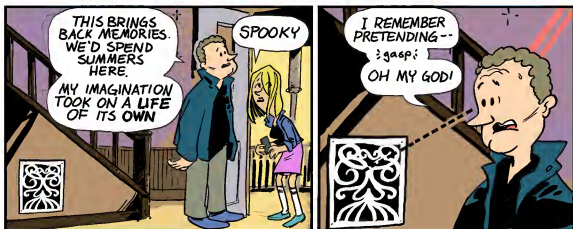
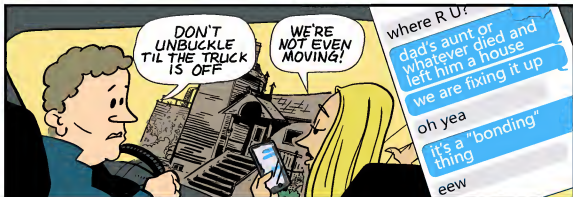
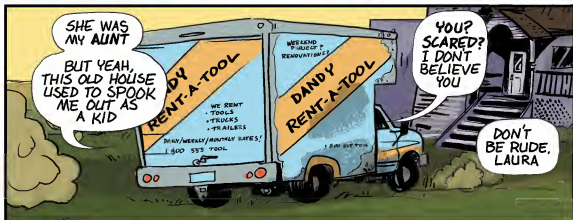
**"WHEN THE  
CHICKENS  
COME HOME  
TO ROOST"**

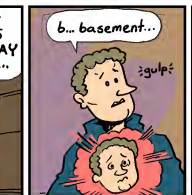
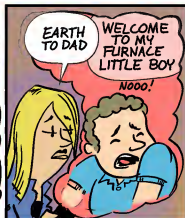


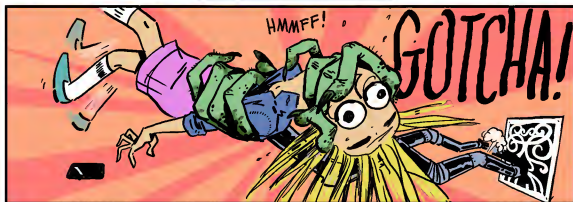
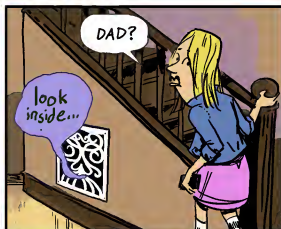
KEEP  
BOCKING  
THOSE  
CHICKENS!

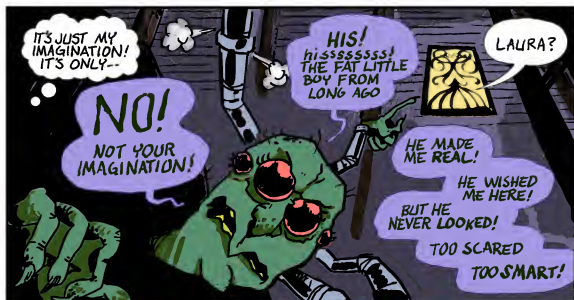
# DARK SPACES

by ADAM WATSON





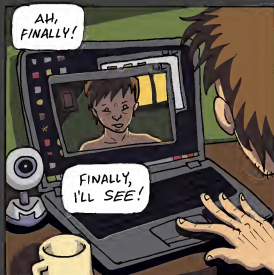


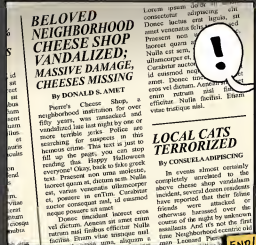
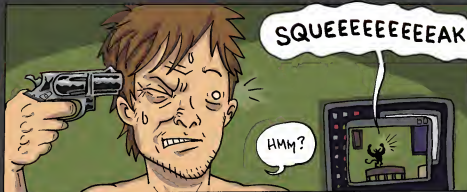
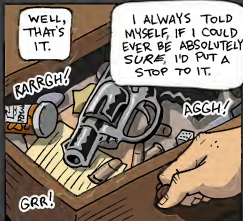




# BAD MOON RISING

BY MANNING KRULL





END!



# BOO! AT THE MOVIES

THAT'S ENTERCHAINMENT! WITH A REBOOT READY TO SLASH INTO THEATERS, WE TAKE A LOOK BACK AT THE UNTOLD ORIGINS OF *CHAINFACE*. BY ANDREW IHLA

"We didn't need this computer s\*\*t," Les Croningham mutters, motionless save for the cigarette bouncing on his lips. "I built an empire on corn syrup and t\*ts."

He's standing in a dark corner of a heavily-greenscreened soundstage, watching as 24-year-old director Shawn Mulvaney prepares to roll camera on a scene from next summer's big-budget *Chainface* reboot. Croningham looks out on the sea of chartreuse before him like a wistful Alexander with no more worlds to conquer. Sitcom up-and-comer Christopher Chris and ingénue Kristen Christian are waiting for grips to assault them with tree limbs.

"I asked Shawn why they can't just go outside and use a real forest," Croningham sighs as smoke curls out between his crooked lips. "He said teens think 'analog trees aren't fleek', whatever the f\*\*k that means."

Thirty-five years ago, Croningham and a ragtag young film crew were deep in an analog forest shooting the original *Chain-*

*face*, although it wasn't called that yet. "We started with nothin'," Croningham recalls. "I mean literally nothing. No title. Not even a concept, other than 'do that teen murder movie but with less money and more boobs.'"

That mandate was from Herb Barrison, head of independent micro-studio World Gate Pictures. Barrison had built World Gate from nothing as a distributor of anything he could afford to acquire, which mostly consisted of adult movies, old cartoons, and a vast library of traffic school educational films from the 1950s. "I could sell all of it on one bill to midnight crowds in the seventies," Barrison remembers via telephone from his beach home in San Juan, British Columbia. "They'd go gaga for it, but it was attracting a very specific audience I wasn't thrilled to cater to."

Eager to transform World Gate from a schlock distributor into a legitimate film studio, Barrison saw his chance in the burgeoning slasher scene. "At the turn of the eighties, a bunch

of schmucks were filming naked broads getting stabbed with fake knives, and these schmucks were making ten times their budget back. And I knew I had to get a schmuck to do that for me."

That's where Les Croningham came in. "Herb came to me because he knew I'd do anything for a buck," he says without pretense. "My last two films had been *Princess Twinkle's Adventure in Magic Wish Land* and *Naughty \*\*\*\*-Thirsty \*\*\*-S\*\*\*s and \*\*\*\*ers Part 9*."

Barrison remembers the arrangement similarly. "So, I called Les and I said, 'here's a few bucks, here's a camera, just gimme a movie, I don't wanna see a script, I don't wanna give you notes, you got a month.'"

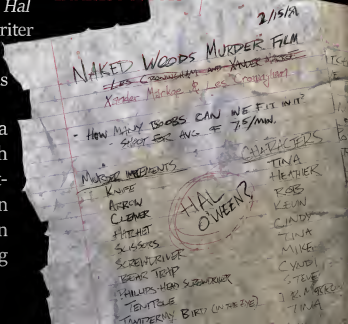
The first story Croningham dreamed up was about a group of teens being terrorized by a murderous Irishman. He called it *Hal O'Ween* and enlisted a writer friend, Xander Markoe, to help him turn out a script as quickly as possible. "Xander and I banged it out over a weekend in the corner booth of a Taco King near my apartment," he says now with an uncharacteristic warmth in his smile. "That Taco King

had the best carne. And the best bathroom to do coke in."

"That script was garbage," recalls Sherilee Shaw, Croningham's then-girlfriend who was cast as Tina, the last girl standing. "But Les was charming, enthusiastic, charismatic...all the traits in a director that I warn young actors to avoid, now that I teach."

Croningham filled out the rest of his teen cast by hanging around outside plasma banks and giving auditions to anyone desperate enough for the cash. But the role of Dr. Elise Morrow, the severe, doom-prophesizing woman determined to warn the youngsters, required a little more gravitas. In her memoirs, *Out of a Paper Bag*, the late screen legend

#### CRONINGHAM & MARKOE'S EARLIEST NOTES



# CHAINFACE

WORLD GATE PICTURES presents a LES CRONINGHAM film  
"CHAINFACE" starring KATHLEEN LANDON and introducing SHERILEE  
SHAW produced by HERB BARRISON written by LES CRONINGHAM  
& XANDER MARKOE directed by LES CRONINGHAM

## ORIGINAL ONE-SHEET POSTER BY ILLUSTRATOR J.E. PEAKES

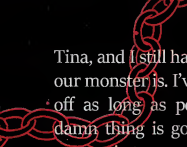
Kathleen Landon shared how she got involved with the film:

*"I had retired. And I had made a big show of retiring, because I was a big star. So when I found out my seventh husband had made some bad investments, I was loathe to go back to work. I had dignity, damn it. I went looking for films guaranteed to go completely unnoticed. My agent came across this s\*\*tty horror script. I was sure no one would see it, and their budget was just enough that I could keep my third schooner. Now, every punk fetus with a Betamax machine stops me on the street and calls me Dr. Morrow."*

Eager cast and meager crew in tow, Croningham headed into the forests of upstate New Jersey to film in the spring of 1981. But just as cameras were beginning to roll, fate intervened in a way that would change horror cinema forever. "We're out there with mosquitoes the size of Cornish game hens, a relief map of Turkmenistan in poison sumac on my ass, my car stuck in a mudhole, when Herb calls and says we can't call the thing *Hal O'Wween* or we'd get sued," the director recalls. "And if we didn't have the title to get people in the seats, the whole Irishman angle suddenly seemed like bulls\*\*t."

Further complicating the situation was Xander Markoe's sudden disappearance while backpacking through Europe. Croningham tried to have his co-writer flown in for rewrites, but neither he nor anyone else could locate Markoe. Markoe never was found, though his travel journals turned up in the basement of a demolished Swiss hostel fifteen years later, and are being published by Forsythe & Co. as a tie-in with the *Chainface* reboot.

Then came the day an icon was born. A twinkle appears in Croningham's eye as he remembers it. "The killer's gotta lunge out at



Tina, and I still have no idea what our monster is. I've put this scene off as long as possible and the damn thing is gonna be on 200 screens in two weeks. I still had to do music and whatserface [Academy Award-winning editor Marcia Fields] still had to cut it. So, last ditch, I cover the stunt guy's face. And I got two things in my backpack: a bag of Cheez Doodles and the chain I'd just used to get my car out of that mudhole.

"I wrapped the chain around his head and called action. I've seen articles—academic papers, for f\*\*k's sake—about the 'psycho-sexual symbolism of the chains.' I wonder if they'd be writing those if I'd gone with the Cheez Doodle bag."

The film slashed onto screens and was an instant, shocking success. World Gate couldn't ship prints fast enough once the midnight college crowds caught on. "I didn't even see the damn thing until three months after it came out," Barrison confesses. "Good thing, too, or I wouldn't have released it. I didn't see what the kids saw in it, but they saw something. So I ordered a sequel."

Indeed, nine sequels, a short-lived TV series, a rap album, and a franchise reboot were inevitable. But Croningham wouldn't be

involved in any of them, having told the story he wanted to tell. "Don't get me wrong; I cash the checks," he explains. "I just don't care."

Which brings the once-rene-gade filmmaker to today, watching a director barely one-third his age order grips to pummel starlets with plastic branches. "Some producer here told me this remake is the start of a 'Chainface Cinematic Universe,'" he sighs wearily. "I told him in the time it'd take to explain those words to me, I could probably make three movies."

## THE CHAINFACE FILMOGRAPHY

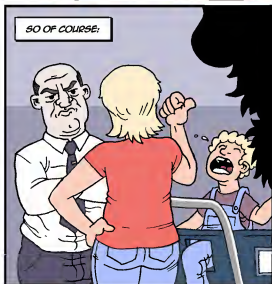
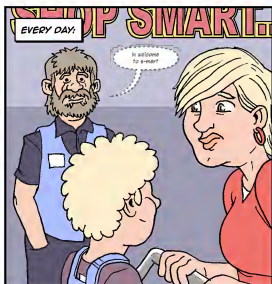
- CHAINFACE (1981)
- CHAINFACE PART II (1982)
- CHAINFACE 3D (1983)
- THE FINAL CHAIN (1984)
- CHAINFACE V:  
A NEW LINK (1986)
- CHAINFACE 666: HELL IS  
OTHER CHAINS (1988)
- CHAINFACE 7: THE  
REVENGEANCING (1989)
- CHAINFACE: THE NEW  
MUTATION (1991)
- CHAINSPACE (1995)
- CHAINFACE VS. STARBEAST  
(2003)
- CHAINFACE (2016)
- CHAINFACE II (2017)

# THE NEW NORMAL



DON'T ASK.















# COLDER THAN A WITCH'S TREAT

STORY:  
LEONARD  
PIERCE

ART:  
MANNING  
KRULL



THAT'LL TEACH HIM. HE AIN'T GONNA GIVE OUT CRAPPY RAISINS NO MORE.

SO WHAT NOW, CARLOS?

YOU WANNA HIT UP MR. FICELLI'S HOUSE, PAY HIM BACK FOR THAT D HE GAVE YOU IN HISTORY LAST WEEK?

NAH, FINK, YOU GOTTA THINK BIG. THIS NIGHT ONLY COMES ONCE A YEAR. I SAY WE FINALLY TAKE ON... *CRAZY TRUDY*!



STORY: LEONARD PIERCE

ART: MANNING KRULL

WHAT ARE YOU, TOUCHED OR SOMETHIN'? CRAZY TRUDY IS, LIKE, A WITCH FOR REAL!

AW, GROW A SACK, JIMMY.

HEY, UP YOURS, SARA! LET'S SEE YOU ACT TOUGH AROUND THAT FREAKY OLD BROAD!

NO, SERIOUSLY YOU GUYS, CRAZY TRUDY IS BAD NEWS...



DEVON DISAPPEARED BECAUSE HE KNOCKED UP PENELOPE DELTOID, GIA. I SAY CRAZY TRUDY IS NOTHIN' BUT AN OLD KOOK, LIVIN' LARGE IN THAT SPOOK HOUSE.

I SAY SHE'S BEEN LORDIN' OVER US FOR LONG ENOUGH. AND I SAY IT'S ABOUT TIME WE TOOK HER DOWN A PEG. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

IF YOU'RE GOIN', I'M GOIN'.

YOU KNOW I'M UP FOR ANYTHING, BOY.

WELL... OKAY...

THEN IT'S SETTLED.







I KNEW  
IT ALL  
ALONG, YOU  
GUYS. THAT  
OLD BIRD  
WAS  
NOTHING  
BUT SQUAWK

YOU SAID  
IT, CARLOS,  
WE SHOWED  
HER A  
THING OR  
TWO.

GET A  
TREAT,  
MY ASS.  
DUMB OLD  
BAG.

I GOTTA ADMIT, I  
WAS SPOOKED FOR  
A MINUTE THAT SHE  
MIGHT'A PUT A HEX  
ON US OR SOMETHING,  
BUT I DON'T FEEL  
NO DIFFERENT.



END





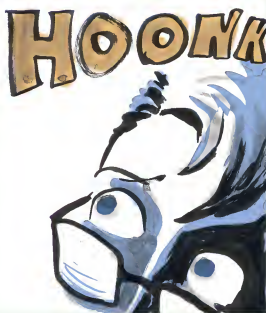


I DON'T--











The following is a select song from the book  
"Campfire Joys for Girls and Boys," Crowley Press,  
1955. All but a handful of copies were seized and  
destroyed shortly after its printing.

"The Karkadoom" is sung to the tune of  
"The Hearse Song."





# THE KARKADOOM

Sit right down  
and I'll sing you a song  
Pay close attention  
It won't take long

I'll tell you all about  
a creature of doom  
a hideous monster  
named the Karkadoom

He's a terrible beast  
with fangs galore  
And big fearsome claws  
All dripping with gore

And he'll...  
Slice open your guts  
And claw out your eyes  
And dance in your blood  
Until the sunrise!

**HE'S THE  
KARKADOOM,  
KARKADOOM,  
KARKADOOM!**

But you can be safe  
Oh yes, it's true  
He's only summoned  
By singing his tune

So put this down  
Don't sing his song  
The Karkadoom is coming  
You don't have long

He slithers and hisses  
And sniffs the night air  
He'll gobble up  
All your skin and hair

And he'll...  
Slice open your guts  
And claw out your eyes  
And dance in your blood  
Until the sunrise!





If you're still here  
We can only assume  
You don't believe  
in the Karkadoom

You tell yourself  
He isn't real  
But if that's so true  
What's that tingle you feel?

What was that sound?  
Don't go check  
Or you'll feel its hot breath  
on the back of your neck

Then he'll...  
Slice open your guts  
And claw out your eyes  
And dance in your blood  
Until the sunrise!

**HE'S THE  
KARKADOOM,  
KARKADOOM,  
KARKADOOM!**



There's just one way  
To end this curse  
One last chance  
To avoid the hearse

Have a friend sing this song  
Without skipping a line  
The beast will ignore you  
And on THEM he'll dine

Think that sounds cruel?  
The choice is on you  
Who should be the next victim  
Of the dread Karkadoom?

Because he'll...  
Slice open your guts  
And claw out your eyes  
And dance in your blood  
Until the sunrise!

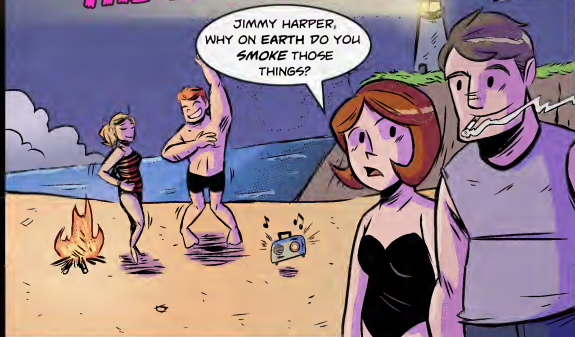




FOUR HIP YOUNG TEENS!  
A BEACH PARTY CELEBRATING THEIR  
SURVIVING THE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE!  
BUT TONIGHT, AN ILL WIND BLOWS!  
CAN THE CLASS OF '56 SURVIVE...

## "THE NIGHT OF THE LIVING SQUARES!!"

JIMMY HARPER,  
WHY ON EARTH DO YOU  
SMOKE THOSE  
THINGS?



AW BABE,  
THE ADS ALL SAY  
THEY'RE **GOOD** FOR YOU!  
WHY WOULD THEY LIE  
ABOUT THAT?



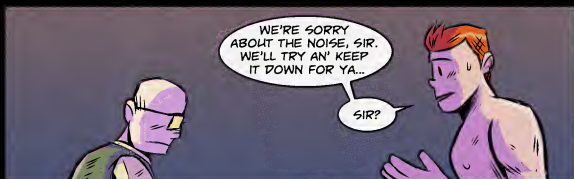


?



AW, DAG!  
THOSE OLD SQUARES  
AT THE LIGHTHOUSE MUST'A  
CALLED THE FUZZ  
ABOUT OUR MUSIC  
BEIN' LOUD!

I'LL GO  
TALK TO  
'EM.



WE'RE SORRY  
ABOUT THE NOISE, SIR.  
WE'LL TRY AN' KEEP  
IT DOWN FOR YA...

SIR?



D...  
DRINK YOUR  
OVALTINE...



CHOMP







AAAAAAAAAAAA!!

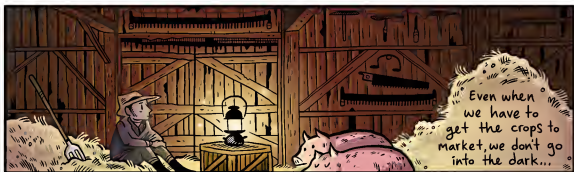
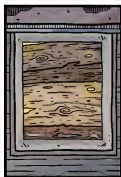
***THE  
END?***

Since summer began, we  
don't go out anymore  
at night...





Papa says the fields can wait until morning...





...then you will probably see ROSIE GOATHEAD



She tip-toes like she has a secret and I can hear her whisper

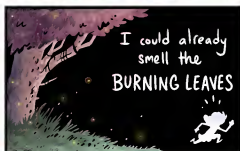




When my Papa ran in he was already gone...









Sometimes it  
sounds like  
Rosie is CRYING



Papa  
told me  
that wasn't  
true at all...



"Because she's  
a damned soul"  
he says...



But maybe  
she was a  
PERSON once...



Maybe she  
cries because  
she's ALONE



no  
more

no  
more

no  
more



We moved East after  
four years of having  
ROSIE GOATHEAD  
visit our farm...



I never found out where she came  
from or where she took my brother

Even hundreds of miles away, we don't go out anymore at night

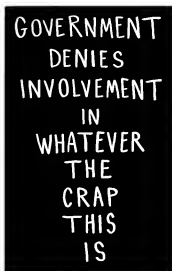
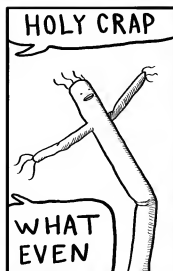


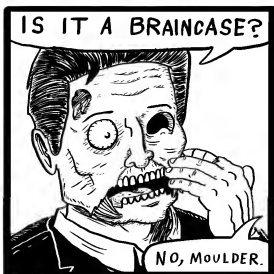
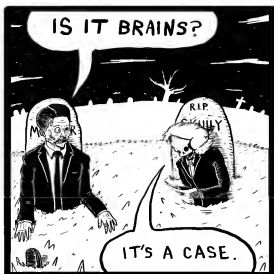
Sometimes I can still smell burning leaves at the onset of dusk





no  
more







NOW THAT YOU HAVE SOME FAST FOOD, CAN WE TALK ABOUT THE CASE?



I WOULDN'T SAY HE WAS FAST

LOOKS LIKE A CRIME  
OF PASSION TO ME.



ANGRY NEIGHBOR, MAYBE.

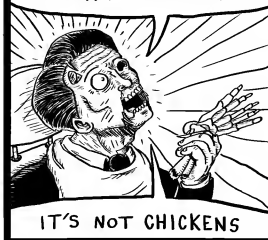
THEN EXPLAIN THE  
EGGS AND GOOP



IT'S A CHICKEN FARM.  
THEY'RE CHICKEN EGGS.  
THEY CONTAIN GOOP.  
FOR ONCE, USE LOGIC.

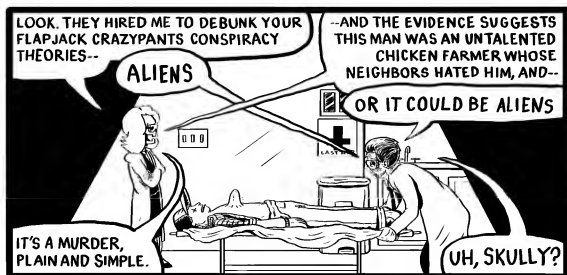


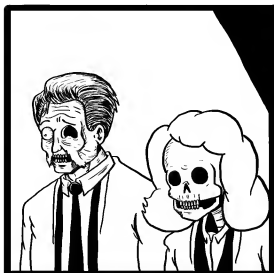
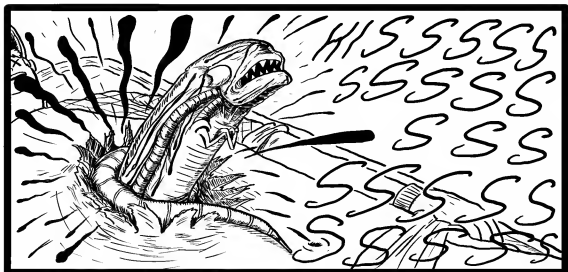
I WANT TO BELIEVE...



IT'S NOT CHICKENS







# THE UNSETTING SUN

"THE PERFECT DAY  
FOR THE VILLAGE BY SEA.  
PERFECT FOR EVERYONE  
EVERYONE BUT ME..."

DAY...

YEAR ONE WRITING  
THIS JOURNAL. A LIFETIME  
WRAPPING MY HEAD  
AROUND THIS POEM.



SINCE FORCED RETIREMENT  
SHE SAID THIS WOULD BE THE  
THING TO CHALLENGE MY BRAIN.  
THAT IS THE UNDERSTATEMENT  
OF THE YEAR!



ALTERNATIVE IS  
SOCIALIZING WITH  
THE TOWN FOLK.  
GOOD LUCK  
STAVING OFF  
DEMENTIA THAT WAY.  
HA! WHAT  
RHYMES WITH  
"DEMENTIA"?



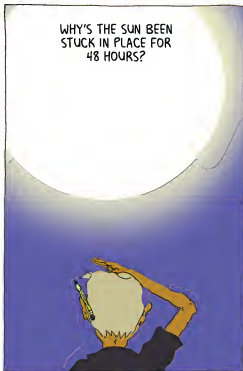
I COOL MY HEELS  
BY JOURNALING WHAT  
COMES NATURALLY.

THE JOB  
I USED TO  
HAVE.

ASKING THE  
QUESTIONS NO  
ONE ASKS.



WHY'S THE SUN BEEN  
STUCK IN PLACE FOR  
48 HOURS?



"I LOOK FOR  
THE CURTAIN,  
ONE THAT  
SHOULDN'T  
EXIST.

FEEL FOR  
THE WALL  
TO SMASH  
WITH MY  
FIST."

WE'RE USED TO  
SUNNY AND WARM.  
ALL WE KNOW IS SUNNY  
AND WARM...UNLESS  
IT'S NIGHT.

BUT IT'S BEEN  
72 HOURS SINCE  
WE HAD ONE OF  
THOSE.

THE EFFECTS  
ARE UNAVOIDABLE  
TO FOLKS.

OF COURSE  
EVERY SHOP IS  
CLOSED.

THE HEAT IS SO  
MISERABLE. AT THE  
LIMITS OF WHAT A  
HUMAN CAN TOLERATE.

WHAT DARN  
FOOLS WOULD  
FIND AN EXCUSE  
TO VENTURE INTO  
THIS OVEN?



I HAD AN EXCUSE,  
BUT SHE'S GONE.

ALONG WITH  
HER LIBRARY.

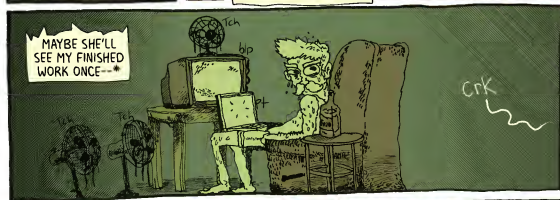
PRESERVATION?

SPEAKING OF, THE  
CHURCH SUDDENLY HAS  
AN INTEREST TAKING IN  
FAMILIES REFUGEE-LIKE.

I WONDER WHAT  
MAKES SOME MORE  
ELIGIBLE FOR SALVATION  
THAN OTHERS.

I WONDER.







THE TRUTH.

THE TRUTH.



I HATE IT, I DO.



IT NAGS ME.

BURNS ME.



MELTS FLESH

INSIDE THROUGH.



BRINGS ME  
TO MADNESS.

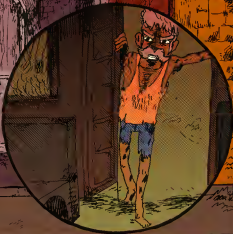


PERFORM  
DESPICABLE  
CRIME.

FOR A MERE  
GLIMPSE



OF THE NEXT RUNG  
I MUST CLIMB.

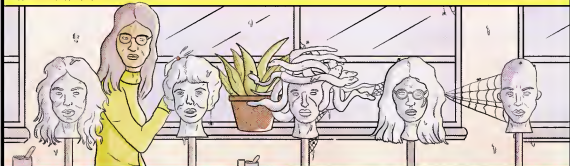








She was cleaning when she found the cocoon. She didn't really think about it at first, her mind pre-occupied with wondering how her studio had gotten this dusty. Questioning if had been that long since she was there.



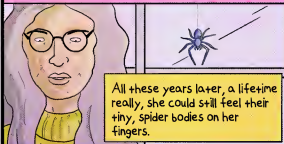
She wouldn't squash any bugs that day. She could never kill them without imagining, in detail, their complete insect lives. Lives that always just became a miniature, bug-pun filled version of her own.

When she first moved into her studio, decades ago now, it was infested with spiders. Rescuing, sweeping, and vacuuming only got rid of so many, so after a while she just started squishing them with her bare hands.

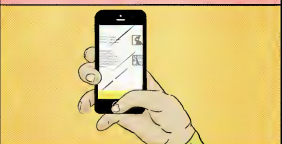


The flurry of arachnid murders had whittled away her empathy. It returned a few weeks later when she was telling a friend about what she'd done. She felt terrible.

Googling 'taking care of a cocoon,' led her down a days-long research hole that ended on an entomology forum called 'The Dark Web.' She liked that name. It sounded made up.

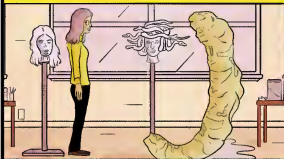


All these years later, a lifetime really, she could still feel their tiny, spider bodies on her fingers.

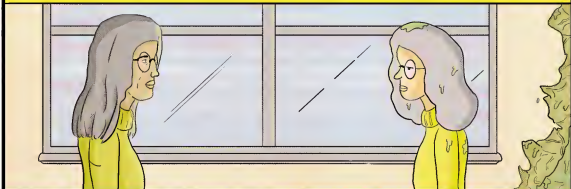


The cocoon grew bigger and bigger and she felt drained and less creative, but somehow better about herself, as she fed it her own blood.

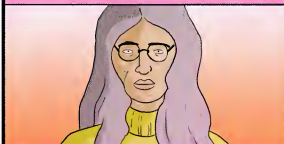
It was like all her old self doubt, or judgements, or failed expectations were melting away. She could go to her studio and just hang out with her giant cocoon without feeling any guilt.



She knew she should have been shocked, or even frightened by what hatched from the cocoon.



Instead though, she felt an instant attachment. Unsure if it was fatigue coloring her emotions, or all the time spent caring for the larvae, and imagining this moment, but she felt love for it.



It seemed to love her too, in its own way. It almost immediately took over her studio and began producing art. She might have been biased, but she thought it was some of the best work she'd ever seen.



It began doing a lot of the stuff, obligations really, that she had long tired of. Going to dinners, parties, work, talking to agents, having friends.



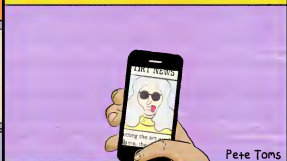
She wished it hadn't murdered her husband, but less because she still cared for him and more because it made her think of those dead spiders again.



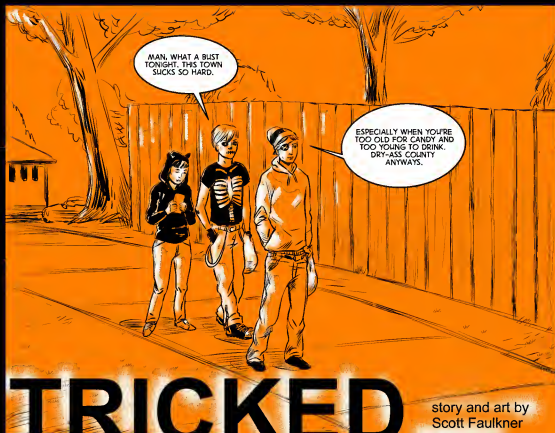
It got pretty famous in the art world. Much more so than she'd ever been. Sometimes she worried about the choices it made, or the human blood it drank, but she was never envious or jealous.



She mostly felt proud of all it had accomplished and an all-encompassing love like she had never felt before.





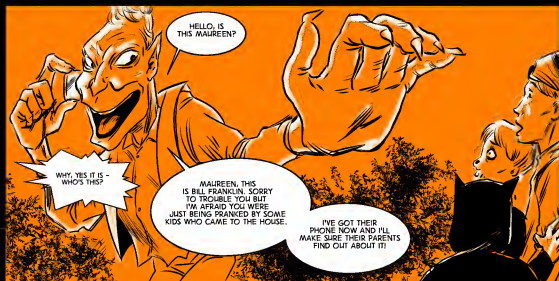














TINA

TINA!



I SAID, GET ME  
A LOTTO TICKET!

WHAT FOR, ROB? YOU  
GONNA STRIKE IT RICH  
AND FINALLY LEAVE  
TOWN?

LUCKY  
SCRATCH

WE WERE ALL  
GOING TO LEAVE  
TOWN, WEREN'T  
WE?

WHAT  
HAPPENED?

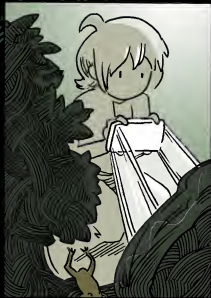
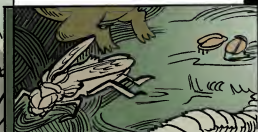
I DON'T KNOW.  
ROB. I DON'T KNOW.

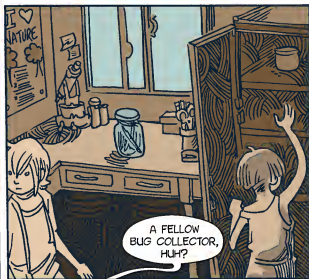
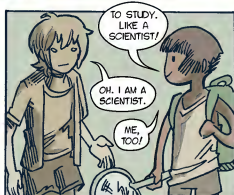


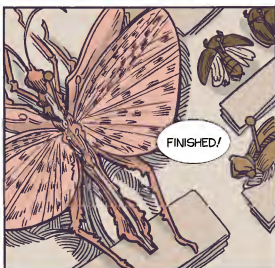
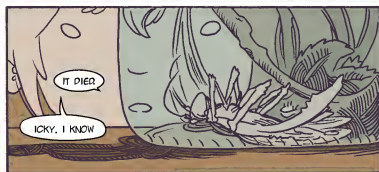
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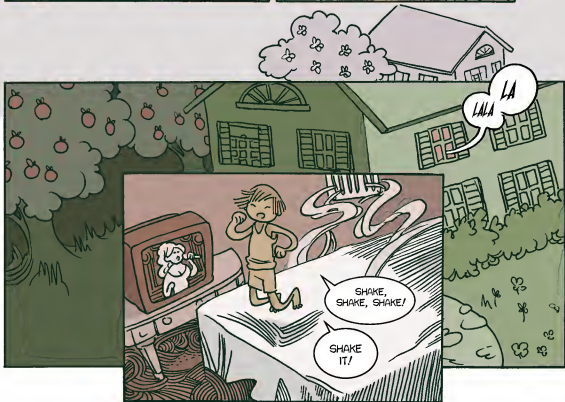
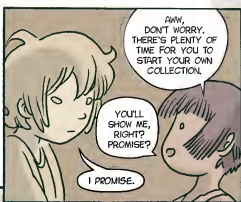


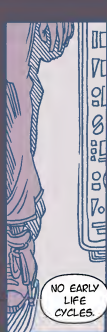
# The Naturalist's Guide



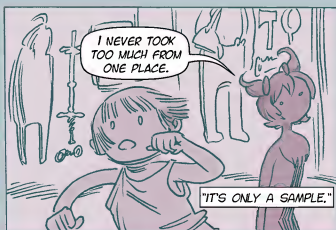

















WELCOME BACK FOLKS,  
HOW'D YOU ENJOY THIS YEAR'S  
TERRIFYING TALES? WAS IT A  
REAL BLAST? I HOPE SO, BECAUSE  
I HAD A REAL BLAST OVER HERE.  
LITERALLY. AN ACTUAL EXPLOSION.TT  
WHY, YOU CAN SEE THAT  
I FELL ALL TO PIECES  
OVER IT!

IT MIGHT SEEM  
LIKE A SETBACK, BUT  
WHEN YOU'RE DESIGNING  
DEATH TRAPS, THIS IS  
CONSIDERED  
"POSITIVE BUZZ"

IN THE MEANTIME, IT'S  
BACK TO THE DRAWING  
BOARD FOR YOURS TRULY.  
AFTER ALL, THERE'S ALWAYS  
NEXT YEAR - AND I'LL BE  
NEEDING TEST SUBJECTS!  
SEE YOU THEN!

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## CONTRIBUTORS

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### **Delilah S. Dawson** (Twitter: @DelilahSDawson)

Author of *Servants of the Storm*, the *Blud* series, and the upcoming *HIT*, plus shorts, comics, and *Geekratica* as Ava Lavelace. Will write for cake and Scotch.

Do you want to know more? <http://www.whimsydork.com>

### **Vito Delsante** (@incogvito)

Vito Delsante writes, letters, edits and makes maanshine in a basement somewhere in Western Pennsylvania with his wife, Michelle, and two kids (Sadie and James). When he's not, he's waxing nostalgic for *Super Powers* action figures on his website [incogvito.com](http://incogvito.com).

### **Scott Faulkner** (Twitter: @vinylsaurus)

Scott is a Seattle cartoonist who has appeared in *BOO!* (2013) and *Bureau of Drawers Quarterly* (2010). He also contributed to and edited *MOXIE, MY SWEET* (2005).

[www.scottfaulkner.com](http://www.scottfaulkner.com)

### **Benjamin Hall** (Twitter: @cyclonaut)

Benjamin Hall has been working in comics and concept art since 2000 with a clear preference for horror related material. He worked on the first American McGee's *Alice* computer game, *Knights of the Dinner Table: Evernights*, several *Dead@17* spin-offs and the *Humanoids* from the *Deep* comic.

<http://hountedfire.com>

### **Tyler Hendrix** (Twitter: @TylerHendrix)

A sentient pile of something or another. Bad at many things, but okay at jokes and drawing. He is tall and smells like a god.

<http://shitfestcomic.com>

### **Joe Hunter** (Twitter: @Joe\_Hunter)

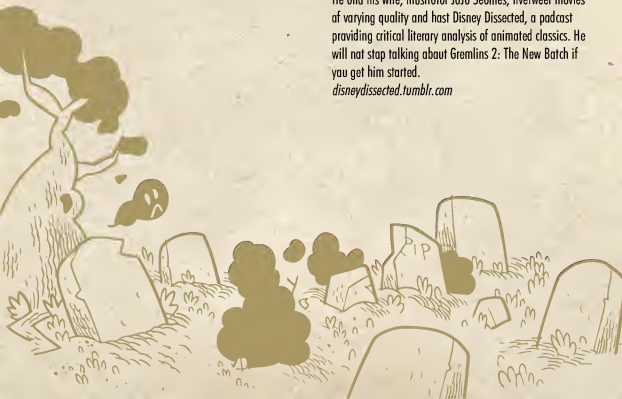
Joe Hunter is a drawguy in who lives in Ohio. He draws, stress bakes, and is probably just Gamera in a person suit. He's very sorry about that.

<http://joebloodyhunter.tumblr.com/>

### **Andrew Ihlo** (Twitter: @AndrewIhlo)

Andrew Ihlo is a writer who lives in Fargo, North Dakota. He and his wife, illustrator JoJo Seomes, livetweet movies of varying quality and host *Disney Dissected*, a podcast providing critical literary analysis of animated classics. He will not stop talking about *Gremlins 2: The New Batch* if you get him started.

[disneydissected.tumblr.com](http://disneydissected.tumblr.com)



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## CONTRIBUTORS

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### **Manning Leonard Krull** (Twitter: @manningkrull)

Manning is a New York-based writer and illustrator. At the time of this writing he is experiencing a bad hair day.

[www.manningkrull.com](http://www.manningkrull.com)

### **Ken Lowery** (Twitter: @kenlowery)

Advertising copywriter, co-founder of

@FakeAPStylebook, editor of Write More Good and writer of the comics Like A Virus, Haint Hasslers and last year's BOO! installment "The Night The Dead Rocked Texas." Hella grouchy.

Ken's stuff can be found at <http://www.ken-lowery.com>

### **Paul Milligan**

Paul Milligan is an illustrator and designer living in Oklahoma (though truthfully his heart belongs to Texas). His work has appeared in various magazine and independent publications, and he publishes a number of his own comics, in print and on the web.

[www.stumblebumstudios.com](http://www.stumblebumstudios.com)

### **Jon Morris** (Twitter: @CalamityJon)

Cartoonist, creator of the Ignatz-nominated webcomic Jeremy: Just Turned Nine, and two-fisted king of the hobo jungles.

See more of his work at <http://calamityjonsove.us>

### **Leonard Pierce** (Twitter: @leonardpierce)

Disgraced former (accupation), currently tailing in the syntax pits of the Windy City. Three collections, two books, one comic, and a knowing wink.

See a list of his writing credits at

<http://www.leonardpierce.com/portfolio>.

### **Deanna Poppe** (Twitter: @Deedala)

Deanna Poppe has been coloring comics since 2011.

Deanna is the colorist for the comic Banished at [www.banishedonline.com](http://www.banishedonline.com). She is also the coloring assistant for the comic Wilde Life at

[www.wildlifecomic.com](http://www.wildlifecomic.com), as well as No Need for Bushida at [www.nn4b.com](http://www.nn4b.com). Deanna currently resides in Southwest Ohio with her husband and son.

### **Sean Poppe** (Twitter: @SeanRunAmak)

Sean Poppe has been drawing comics since 2011. His art is featured in a number of small-press table-top RPG publications including CRAWL!, Vacant Ritual Assembly, and Undercroft. Sean is also currently attempting to draw 365 Goblins in 2015, which is chronicled at [365goblins.tumblr.com](http://365goblins.tumblr.com). Additional work can be seen at [beardedruckus.tumblr.com](http://beardedruckus.tumblr.com). Sean currently resides in Southwest Ohio with his wife and son.



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## CONTRIBUTORS

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### JoJo Seames (Twitter: @jojoseames)

JoJo Seames was created by a scientist in a land far away, for terrible purposes. She exacts her terrible revenge on humanity by drawing comics. Artist of Monster Plus, color artist of Jenny Rockwell, and writer-artist of The Makeshift Mon.

<http://www.jojoseames.com/>

### Matt Smigiel

Cartoonist and illustrator up in the Eastern woods of NH. Looks like Hugh Jackman. 'Nuff said.

[thesmigiel.tumblr.com](http://thesmigiel.tumblr.com)

### Ryan Smith (Twitter: @RyanComics)

Ryan Smith began cartooning in 1999. His current work, *Accursed Dragon*, is a fantasy series found on the web, [www.accurseddragon.com](http://www.accurseddragon.com), and available in three printed volumes. Banished is his science fiction collaboration that may be read online at [www.banishedonline.com](http://www.banishedonline.com) and available in print form. Ryan enjoys humorous adventures, lives with his dog in Manitoba, Canada and endures the unforgiving winters as it builds character.

### Kyle Starks (Twitter: @TheKyleStarks)

Kyle Starks is a comic creator from Southern Indiana. He is pretty well known for making the "best wrestling comic ever", *Legend of Ricky Thunder*. He, also, is relatively well known for defeating the Dork Wolf Mother in vicious physical combat and thus becoming alpha mole of the Nightsphere Moon Dogs. You may have seen that on the news.

[www.kylestarks.com](http://www.kylestarks.com)

### Kelly Tindall (Twitter: @kellytindall)

Mr. Tindall is a former birthday party clown from Morsden, Saskatchewan. He is otherwise known for his pirate webcomic *Stronbeard* and his diary strip *The Adventurers*.

For drawings galore, kindly peruse

<http://www.kellytindall.com>

### Pete Toms (Twitter: @fancypetetoms)

Cartoonist that has cartooned the Ignatz-nominated webcomic *On Hiotus*, wrote the webcomic *The Short Con*, and colored the non-webcomic *Pop*.

See more of his work at: <http://ifeelawesome.net>

### Adam Watson (Twitter: @themightyadam)

A cartoonist, illustrator, and armchair entomologist. Creator of the fan-comic, "*Star Trek: Galaxy*," and the recently launched "*Bees and Q's*," a comic about beekeeping.

See more work by Adam at <http://themightyadam.com>





SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...  
THIS MONSTER!"

